

THE FLOW OF MUSIC AND POETRY

BY: Theresa Gottbrath, Silver Street Elementary
Pekin IN, Summer 1992 "Workshop On Water"

Purpose: Let the students get in touch with their feelings about rain through art, music, and poetry.

Teaching Level: grades K-6.

Geographic Themes: Human-environment interaction is the main theme focused upon in this lesson.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. listen to music as they think about rain and determine how they feel about rain.
2. create either poetry or artwork about as they listen to music thinking about rain.
3. learn through discussion the effect rain has upon others and themselves other than physical effects.

Materials Required:

- Rain music (There is a wide variety of this music available from thunderstorms to rain accompanied by musicians. It is best to have music with no words spoken.)
- one precut raindrop for each student in class
- precut umbrellas, rainbows, or clouds on which to hand the raindrops
- string or fishing wire with which to hand the raindrops
- one 18" x 24" sheet of black construction paper for each student
- squeeze bottles of glue
- bright chalk pastels and chalk fixative

Procedure:

1. While the students are listening to a tape of the sounds of rain, read a short poem to them (such as the poem below):

The Rain
Rain on the green grass,
Rain on the flowers,
Rain on the tree.
Rain on the house-top,
But not on me.

Anonymous

2. After the poem is read, have the students silently continue to listen to the music as they (a) write their own poem or continue the poem they just heard (which means that you need copies of this poem), (b) write what they are feeling (for upper elementary), (c) write down their favorite

activity rainy

day activity, or (d) draw a picture about a rainy day. The teacher needs to decide which activity or

activities students would prefer to do. After the students have finished their activity, have them

share their work with everyone else.

3. Then, have the students sit in one circle. Give each student a precut raindrop; each student is to pick

a word that they associate with rain; no two raindrops should be alike. One at a time, have the students

share their word and then write the word in large print on the raindrop.

4. Hang the raindrops onto the precut umbrellas or rainbows or clouds. Students can then return to their

seats and create a rain picture with their black construction paper. Here the students will squirt lines

and shapes from the squeeze bottles of white glue, avoiding the edges of the paper. Set the designs

aside for at least one day. After the glue has dried, have the students design, with the pastels, vivid

pictures. Chalking inside the glue-line boundaries is only one of many techniques students can use. When

finished, spray with a chalk fixative to prevent smearing. Good ventilation is very important when using the fixative.

Evaluation:

In this type of activity, class participation through the use of creativity will determine if students met the objectives stated above.

Extensions/Adaptations:

This type of lesson can be done using the topic of rain forest, using rain forest music. You could have a large tree and have students write on leaves.

Another activity is to have students paint a watercolor picture on construction paper. Let it dry for about three hours. If it is raining, have the students put on their raincoats and take their watercolor painting outside for a few seconds in the rain. The water will cause the colors to splatter and blend. If it is not raining, spray the painting with water using a spray bottle.

Resources:

The chalk activity is from Paula Guhin, Aberdeen South Dakota as obtained from Scholastic Instructor, April 1992. The activity was shared with educators at the WOW by Marci Smith, Bedford Texas.

SUGGESTED READING INCORPORATING WATER

Book

Author

Where the Forest Meets the Sea	Jeannie Baker
Baby Beluga	Ashley Wolff
Make Way for Ducklings	Robert McClosky
The Magic School Bus at the Water Works	August Goldin
The City Girl Who Went to Sea	Joanna Cole
Riverkeeper	George Ancona
Sally and the Limpet	Simon James
Coastal Rescue	Christina G. Miller
Down the Drain	Thompson Yardley
Big Al	Clements Yoshi
Fish Eyes	Lois Ehlert
Swimmy	Leo Lionni
The Fish Who Could Wish	John Bush
A Walk in the Rain	Ursel Scheffler
Rain Talk	Mary Serfozo
Listen to the Rain	Bill Martin, Jr.
Water's Way	Lisa Westbert Peters
The Sun, the Wind, and the Rain	"
Rain Forest	Helen Cowcher
The River	David Bellamy
Were You a Wild Duck, Where Would You Go?	George Mendoza
Professor Noah's Spaceship	Brian Wildsmith
How Green Are You?	David Bellamy
Paddle to the Sea	
The Whale's Song	